

Response Under 37 CFR §1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3652

Application No. 09/975,329

Paper Dated: November 15, 2004

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of July 15, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 702-011760

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A device for transporting persons along a staircase, comprising:

a frame displaceable along a guide;

a drive to be selectively set into operation for displacing the frame along the guide; and

a chair on the frame on which a person for transporting can be seated, wherein the chair comprises a seat part and a back rest, wherein at least the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and downward in a pivoting movement on a substantially horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide during standing up or sitting down;

wherein the frame and the seat part are connected to a guide mechanism for guiding the movement of the seat part relative to the frame, wherein the guide mechanism comprises a rod construction coupled by means of hinges, and wherein the hinges in the rod construction form a parallelogram; and

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wherein the back rest is connected to the guide mechanism such that the back rest may be displaced up or down without rotation being imparted to the back rest.

20. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the back rest is connected to the seat part and co-displaces in substantially upright position with the seat part.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the back rest and the seat part are connected by means of the guide mechanism.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein rods in the rod construction are flat and plate-like and fold adjacently of each other into the guide mechanism in a position of the seat part folded down onto the frame.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein two hinges of the parallelogram which lie at corner points of the parallelogram are fixed to the frame

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in stationary manner relative thereto, and the other two hinge points are coupled to the seat surface.

27. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the rods between the two sets of pivot points have a curved form.

28. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26, wherein the back rest is coupled to the two remaining pivot points.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the guide mechanism defines a non-stationary horizontal pivot axis which during the pivoting movement substantially follows the movement in space of pivot points of legs of a user in the pelvis thereof.

31. (Cancelled)

32. Cancelled)

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33. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 19, further comprising at least one arm rest, wherein the at least one arm rest is connected to the guide mechanism such that the at least one arm rest may be displaced up or down without rotation being imparted to the at least one arm rest.

34. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 33, wherein the arm rest is connected to the seat part and co-displaces in substantially upright position with the seat part.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (New) A device for transporting persons along a staircase, comprising:
a frame displaceable along a guide;
a drive to be selectively set into operation for displacing the frame along the guide; and

a chair on the frame on which a person for transporting can be seated;
wherein the chair comprises a seat part and a back rest, wherein at least the seat part on the side directed toward the back rest can be pivoted up and downward in a pivoting

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movement on a substantially horizontal pivot axis and forms a guide during standing up or sitting down;

wherein the frame and the seat part are connected to a guide mechanism for guiding the movement of the seat part relative to the frame, wherein the guide mechanism comprises a rod construction coupled by means of hinges, wherein the hinges in the rod construction form a parallelogram; and

wherein the rods fold adjacently of each other into the guide mechanism in a position of the seat part folded down onto the frame.